

REMARKS

Claims 15, 17, 23, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of presentation of this subject matter in a continuation application. Accordingly, claims 1, 8, 19, and 21 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 8 are independent. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1, 8, 19, and 21 are allowed.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because it (a) places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; and (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. For at least these reasons, entry of the present Amendment is therefore respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0054863 applied for by Lee, *et al.* ("Lee") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0067751 applied for by Vandermeijden, *et al.* ("Vandermeijden"). Claims 17 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Statutory Invention Registration No. H1714 filed by Partridge, III ("Partridge").

Claims 15, 17, 23, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of presentation of this subject matter in a continuation application. Accordingly, these rejections are moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1, 8, 19, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and all of the stated grounds for rejection have been rendered moot. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below if it would expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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